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Message Text

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EA - MR. HUMMEL
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OSD/ISA - ADM. BIGLEY
S/S - MR. BARNES
WH- GENERAL SCOWCROFT
---------- 103953
Z O 010044Z AUG 73 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 150842

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TH
SUBJ: PRESS TREATMENT OF AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION WITH THANOM
REF : BANGKOK 11428

1. WE PREFER THAT ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT IN THAILAND ON AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION OF US PRESENCE BE COUPLED WITH GENERAL REMARKS ON OTHER TWO RTG QUESTIONS RELAYED REF I.E., CAMBODIA OUTLOOK AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, GUIDANCE ON WHICH IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

2. IDEAS PROPOSED REFTEL PARA 2 ON PUBLIC STATEMENT RE US PRESENCE ARE ACCEPTABLE WITH EXCEPTION OF REFERENCE

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TO LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS. IN ORDER TO AVOID PREMATURE

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SPECULATION HERE AT A TIME WHEN OUR VIEWS ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE ARE STILL UNDETERMINED, YOU SHOULD CONFINE PRESS REMARKS TO SHORTER TERM REDUCTIONS. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT PUBLIC STATEMENT HIGHLIGHT OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSULT WITH RTG AND OUR RESPECT FOR THAI SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL INTERESTS.

3. TAKING ABOVE INTO ACCOUNT, WE SUGGEST PRESS STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINE:

"FOLLOWING HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR UNGER CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CURRENT MATTERS OF

MUTUAL INTEREST INCLUDING DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA, ESPECIALLY CAMBODIA, THE UNITED STATES MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND AND FUTURE US ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND. AMBASSADOR UNGER NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAI CONCERNS ON THESE SUBJECTS AND IS TAKING THEM INTO FULL ACCOUNT.

"ON THE INDOCHINA SITUATION THE AMBASSADOR, INTER ALIA, CONVEYED ASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO PROVIDE FULLEST POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO THE GKR IN ITS EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY OF CAMBODIA AND ALSO TO PERSEVERE IN PROVIDING DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR GKR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA.

"THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE HOPE THAT, IN DUE COURSE, MILITARY AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA WOULD PERMIT REDUCTIONS IN US FORCES IN THAILAND WITHOUT JEOPARDY TO OUR MUTUAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES.AS REDUCTIONS ARE JUDGED TO BE FEASIBLE THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL CONSULT CLOSELY. THAI SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND INTERESTS WILL BE FULLY RESPECTED AND DUE CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE LOCAL IMPACT OF TROOP REDUCTIONS.

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"THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT THE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE IN INDOCHINA WILL NOT DIMINISH THAILAND'S NEED TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ITS CAPABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST POSSIBLE EXTERNAL THREATS BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS, THEREFORE, TO CONTINUE PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND. THAILAND WILL CONTINUE TO

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RECEIVE A HIGH PRIORITY IN THE ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE
MILITARY ASSISTANCE RESOURCES." ROGERS

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